# Gerontology for the Health Care Professional

Third Edition

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# **INTRODUCTION**

Thank you for choosing to open this textbook and read this page. *Gerontology for the Health Care Professional, Third Edition* is designed with you in mind. Our goal is to make this textbook as reader-friendly as possible, and to demonstrate that we are thoroughly committed to interprofessional healthcare practice.

As you read each chapter, we encourage you to consider the role of each of the health-care professions listed below. While this is not an exclusive list and, most of the time, only a small portion of all the possible professions will actually be involved in working with any given client, we do want you to at least think about how this profession *could* be involved, and if a consultation or referral would be in order. You may need to investigate some of the following professions to understand exactly what they are. Further research is certainly encouraged.

The most prominent healthcare professionals involved in gerontological care are:

- Alternative Medicine Practitioners
- Art Therapists
- Athletic Trainers
- Audiologists
- Cardiovascular Technologists
- Case Managers
- Counselors
- Dental Practitioners
- Dieticians/Nutritionists
- Emergency Medical Practitioners
- Gerontologists
- Horticulture Therapists
- Imaging Technologists
- Massage Therapists

- Medical Laboratory Practitioners
- Medical Records Health Information Specialists
- Music Therapists
- Neuropsychologists
- Nursing Practitioners
- Occupational Therapy Practitioners
- Orientation and Mobility Specialists (low vision)
  - Orthotists
  - Physical Therapy Practitioners
- Physician Assistants
  - Physicians
- Polysomnographers

#### XİV Introduction

- **Prosthetists**
- Psychiatrists Psychologists
- Radiological Technologists Recreation Therapists

- Rehabilitation Teachers (low vision)
- Respiratory Therapists
- Social Workers
- Speech and Language Pathologists
- Visual Care Specialists

We are fortunate to be living in this day and age, because information is now at our fingertips as it has never been before. Certainly not everything available online can be relied upon, and therefore we need to read what is out there in cyberspace with critical and questioning eyes. However, for those who want to learn, the floodgates have opened and the world of information is there for the learning.

The *Third Edition* begins with chapters on the different aspects of aging, including:

- Demographics (Chapter 1)
- Social (Chapter 2)
- Physiological (Chapter 3)
- Cognitive and psychological (Chapter 4) Sensory and functional (Chapter 5)

Later chapters explore various issues that, although not exclusive to older people, are of primary importance to the older population. These issues include:

- Pharmacology (Chapter 6)
- Nutrition (Chapter 7)
- Dental health (Chapter 8) Sexuality (Chapter 9)
- Housing and the continuum of care (Chapter 10)
- Policy and ethical issues (Chapter 11)
- Plain language (Chapter 12)
- Speculation on the future of our aging society (Chapter 13)

The *Third Edition* includes updates and new information, including:

- New chapter on dental issues
- New epilogue
- More case studies
- More on policy and legislative issues, patient advocacy, ethics, elder abuse, cultural issues, communication, and social theories of aging
- Latest information on obesity
- Updated information, statistics, and census data
- Expanded information on dementia, sleep disorders, and medication therapy management

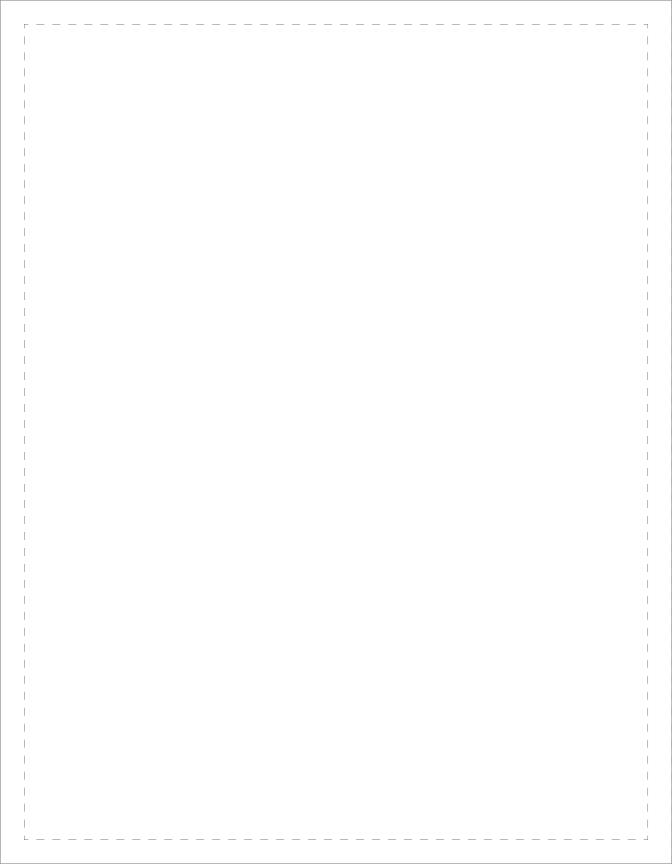
Explore, enjoy the learning process, and thank you for your interest in learning about, and possibly working with, older people.

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